

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for pricing a cryptographic service, comprising:
 - 2 (a) receiving a request for a cryptographic service;
 - 3 (b) identifying a computational burden required to perform the cryptographic
4 service, including one or more of a privacy level of the cryptographic
5 service or a speed of performing the cryptographic service; and
 - 6 (c) determining a price of the cryptographic service based on at least one of
7 computational burden, privacy level, and speed.
 - 1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a user requesting the
2 cryptographic service specifies the privacy level.
 - 1 3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a user requesting the
2 cryptographic service specifies the speed of performing the cryptographic
3 service.
 - 1 4. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising requesting payment for
2 the cryptographic service from a user requesting the cryptographic service.
 - 1 5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the cryptographic service includes
2 utilizing private information retrieval.
 - 1 6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the cryptographic service includes
2 utilizing group authentication.
 - 1 7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the cryptographic service includes
2 utilizing mix networks.

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- 1 8. A computer program embodied on a compute readable medium for pricing a
2 cryptographic service, comprising:
- 3 (a) a code segment that receives a request for a cryptographic service;
- 4 (b) a code segment that identifies a computational burden required to perform
5 the cryptographic service, including one or more of privacy level of the
6 cryptographic service or speed of performing the cryptographic service; and
- 7 (c) a code segment that determines a price of the cryptographic service based on
8 at least one of computational burden, privacy level, and speed.
- 1 9. The computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein a user requesting the
2 cryptographic service specifies the privacy level.
- 1 10. The computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein a user requesting the
2 cryptographic service specifies the speed of performing the cryptographic
3 service.
- 1 11. The computer program as recited in claim 8, further comprising a code
2 segment that requests payment for the cryptographic service from a user
3 requesting the cryptographic service.
- 1 12. The computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the cryptographic
2 service includes utilizing private information retrieval.
- 1 13. The computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the cryptographic
2 service includes utilizing group authentication.
- 1 14. The computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the cryptographic
2 service includes utilizing mix networks.

- 1 15. A system for pricing a cryptographic service, comprising:
- 2 (a) logic that receives a request for a cryptographic service;
- 3 (b) logic that identifies a computational burden required to perform the
- 4 cryptographic service, including one or more of a privacy level of the
- 5 cryptographic service or a speed of performing the cryptographic service;
- 6 and
- 7 (c) logic that determines a price of the cryptographic service based on the at
- 8 least one of the computational burden, privacy level, and speed.
- 1 16. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein a user requesting the
- 2 cryptographic service specifies the privacy level.
- 1 17. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein a user requesting the
- 2 cryptographic service specifies the speed of performing the cryptographic
- 3 service.
- 1 18. The system as recited in claim 15, further comprising logic that requests
- 2 payment for the cryptographic service from a user requesting the
- 3 cryptographic service.
- 1 19. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the cryptographic service
- 2 includes utilizing private information retrieval.
- 1 20. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the cryptographic service
- 2 includes utilizing group authentication.
21. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the cryptographic service
- includes utilizing mix networks.

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- 1 22. A method for pricing a cryptographic service based on a compactness of an
2 encrypted message, comprising:
- 3 (a) receiving a request for encrypting a message;
- 4 (b) encrypting the message, wherein the message is compressed during the
5 encryption; and
- 6 (d) calculating a price of the encryption based on the amount of compression.
- 1 23. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the cryptographic service is a
2 digital signature.
- 1 24. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the encryption utilizes random
2 bits.

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